

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /075 W

----- 024990

O R 241030Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2133

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MARR, JA

SUBJECT: AIR FORCE SECRETARY REMARKS AT TOKYO PRESS CLUB

1. INITIAL RESPONSE TO SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE MCLUCAS' MAY 22 SPEECH AND Q AND A SESSION AT TOKYO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB PREDICTIBLY HAS EMPHASIZED REAL OR IMAGINED DRAMATIC POINTS; GENERAL APPROACH OF PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN TO SANDWICH ACTUAL WORDS OF SECRETARY MCLUCAS BETWEEN EYE-CATCHING HEADLINES E.G. QTE US REQUEST FOR OVERSEAS DISPATCH OF SDF IS POSSIBLE; STATEMENT BY US SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE UNQTE AND TENDENTIOUS INTERPRETIVE COMMENTARY.

2. HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE SITUATION WHEREBY SECURITY ROLE FOR JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES (SDF) OUTSIDE BORDERS OF JAPAN COULD BE FORESEEN, RECEIVED HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER FROM SECRETARY WHICH WAS REPORTED IN JAPANESE VERNACULAR PRESS (YOMIURI) AS FOLLOWS: QTE OF COURSE, SUCH A SITUATION CAN ARISE. I THINK THAT DEPENDS ON WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES WILL TAKE MORE AGGRESSIVE
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ACTIONS IN ASIA OR NOT. AT THE PRESENT TIME, COUNTRIES IN

THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF JAPAN ARE QUIET, BUT IF THE WORLD SITUATION WERE TO CHANGE, AND IF THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF JAPAN AND THE US WERE TO BE THREATENED IN SOME FORM OR OTHER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FORECAST CERTAIN KINDS OF CHANGES IN JAPAN'S ROLE IN THE PARTNERSHIP (SECURITY TREATY STRUCTURE) BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES". ENTIRELY IGNORING HYPOTHETICAL CHARACTER OF QUESTION AND ITS RESPONSE, YOMIURI NOTED CONTRAST WITH STATED US POLICY THAT QTE DISPATCH OF SDF OVERSEAS WILL NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, BE SOUGHT. UNQTE

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIGHTER AND ASW AIRCRAFT YOMIURI QUOTED SECRETARY MCLUCAS' RESPONSE AS FOLLOWS: QTE THE U.S. DESIRES JAPAN'S STRENGTHENING OF ITS WARNING SYSTEM WITH DOUGLAS F15 FIGHTERS AND WITH BOEING E2 OR E3'S. UNQTE.

4. PREDICTABLY, OPPOSITION DIET MEMBERS (PRIMARILY JCP) HAVE PICKED UP HEADLINES AND, JUXTAPOSING TWO ANSWERS CITED ABOVE WITH WILLFUL MISINTERPRETATIONS OF THEIR OWN, DEMANDED OF JDA SPOKESMEN IN DIET THAT THEY REACT TO US QTE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT SDF BE STRENGTHENED AND DEPLOYED OVERSEAS UNQTE. SOME INTERPELLATORS HAVE CHARACTERIZED REMARKS AS QTE INTERFERENCE IN JAPANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNQTE AND DEMANDED THAT GOJ PROTEST TO USG. JDA SPOKESMAN MAY 23 CONFINED THEIR RESPONSES TO DECLINING TO COMMENT ON STATEMENTS OF QTE OFFICERS OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT UNQTE AND REITERATING JAPANESE POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SDF. JDA RESPONSE MAY 24 WAS TO READ SECRETARY MCLUCAS DEPARTURE STATEMENT, WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE DEFUSED DIET ISSUE.

5. DEPARTURE STATEMENT PREPARED BY COMUSJAN, USIA, AND EMBASSY AND DELIVERED AM MAY 24 FOLLOWS: QTE UPON MY DEPARTURE FROM JAPAN I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO VISIT JAPAN AND I HOPE THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT JAPAN AGAIN. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT MY FIRST VISIT TO ASIA IS TO JAPAN, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JAPAN-U.S. ALLIANCE. I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY A MISCONCEPTION CONCERNING MY VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES, WHICH CAME OUT OF THE PRESS LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY. I WAS RESPON-
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DING TO A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, AND I GAVE A HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION I WOULD NEITHER ENVISION NOR DESIRE A CHANGE IN THE ROLE OF THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL RESTRAINTS UNDER WHICH THE ROLE OF THE SELF DEFENSE FORCES HAS BEEN LIMITED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE HOME ISLANDS. ANY DECISION TO CHANGE THAT ROLE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THE

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THE EFFORTS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IS MAKING TO UPGRADE HER SELF DEFENSE FORCES QUALITATIVELY, THIS DOES NOT IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT WE DESIRE ANY CHANGES IN THEIR ROLE UNQTE.

6. VERBATIM ORAL RECORD OF Q AND A SESSION TRANSMITTED TO AIR FORCE OFFICE OF INFORMATION, PUBLIC BRANCH BY COMUSJAPAN.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO06850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740130-0754
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740517/aaaaapcw.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR FORCE SECRETARY REMARKS AT TOKYO PRESS CLUB
TAGS: OVIP, MARR, JA, (MCLUCAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005